

Commissioner J. Russell “Russ” Jennings
Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority

J. Russell “Russ” Jennings became Commissioner of the Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority on February 26, 2007.

Between January 1994 and February 2007 Commissioner Jennings served as the Director of the Southwest Kansas Regional Juvenile Detention Center in Garden City, Kansas. The center is a 28-bed facility operated by Finney County and serves eighteen counties in the 16th, 25th, and 26th Judicial Districts. It is licensed to provide secure detention services for youth age ten through seventeen.

During his service as Juvenile Detention Center Director, Commissioner Jennings actively assisted in the establishment of the Juvenile Justice Authority. Following passage of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act in 1996, Commissioner Jennings was appointed as a member of the Kansas Youth Authority, a position which he held between July 1997 and July 1999. Between August 1997 and June 2005, Commissioner Jennings served as a member of the Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The Kansas Advisory Group reviews juvenile justice policy, advises policymakers on issues affecting the juvenile justice system; and assists in maintaining compliance with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

Between April 1996 and August 1997, Commissioner Jennings served as a member of the Kansas Supreme Court Juvenile Intake and Assessment Advisory Committee. Between October 1995 and October 1997 he served as Chairman of the Kansas Correctional Association Juvenile Justice Committee.

Commissioner Jennings served from January 1981 through January 1994 as District Magistrate Judge of the Kearny County District Court. During this time he served as President, Vice-President, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Kansas District Magistrate Judges Association, and chaired the Legislative and Education committees.

Between May 1977 and June 1979, Commissioner Jennings served as a Deputy Sheriff on the Kearny County Sheriff’s Department. Between June 1979 and January 1981, he served as Undersheriff of Kearny County.

Commissioner Jennings was elected to the Lakin City Council in April 1997 and served in that position until May 2005.

Between January 2003 and October 2006, Commissioner Jennings served as a Member of the Board of Trustees of Leadership Kansas. Since October 2006, he has chaired that Board.

Commissioner Jennings was graduated from Friends University, Wichita, Kansas, with a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Human Resource Management.